

The Argus.

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PACIFIC COAST NEWS

Important Information Gathered Around the Coast.

ITEMS OF GENERAL INTEREST.

A Summary of Late Events That Are
Boiled Down to Suit our Busy
Readers.

Charles M. Shortridge's condition is reported more critical.

Thomas Dwyer has been appointed Chief of Police of Sacramento.

Eight lives were lost in the Great Eastern Block fire at Spokane.

San Francisco is still agitating a free market on the harbor front.

San Francisco has received 24,891 tons of coal, and the famine is over.

The Order of B'nai B'rith has chosen San Francisco as its next meeting place.

Gold strikes are reported again from the Hunker Creek district of the Klondike.

Steps are being taken to have Fresno made a city of the fourth class instead of the fifth class.

David Dunne has been appointed collector of internal revenue for the district of Oregon.

The steamer Pelican, out 103 days from Port Townsend for Taku, Japan, has been given up for lost.

Bogus drafts by a North Pacific Trading and Transportation Company are being worked on San Francisco banks.

Seven trainloads, amounting to 4750 bales, of Texas cotton, have arrived at Tacoma for shipment to China and Japan.

Mrs. E. L. Hager, widow of the late John S. Hager, once United States Senator from California, died at San Francisco.

Shipments from San José have been made during the last week of more than one million pounds of wine to eastern points.

In forty-eight hours last week seventeen vessels, carrying more than 4,000,000 feet of lumber in the aggregate passed through the Golden Gate.

C. W. Vosmer of San Francisco is planning to go to the Klondike by balloon. He proposes to use the big captive balloon made for the World's Fair.

Reports that Canada will exclude aliens from the Yukon mining regions are false. Briton and Yankee will be welcome, but must first take out licenses.

The Mt. Whitney telephone line has been sold at Porterville by E. W. Beebe for a nominal sum. It was bought in by the Porterville Lumber Company.

The Supervisors of Tulare county signed a petition to Congress asking an appropriation of \$50,000 to build roads and trails to the Sequoia National Park.

The recent tour of the Stanford University Mandolin and Guitar Club through Southern California was a financial as well as musical success. The profits were over \$100.

Miners not provided with a year's supplies will not be allowed to attempt the passage from Dyea to Dawson. Men not so provided will be turned back by customs and police officers.

The Genoa (Nev.) grand jury has adjourned. The foreman reported to the court that the jury had evidence concerning the identity of the Uba lynchings, but the jurymen refused to indict.

Ex-Rev. Brown has confessed and says he will not run away from the consequences, nor will he tell what his confession means, but he is going to preach the gospel if he does so on the street corners.

Senator White of California has been chosen chairman of the Democratic National Congressional Campaign Committee. The contest will be waged, so far as national issues are involved, on the Chicago platform.

Prof. E. P. Cubberly, Superintendent of San Diego City Schools, has been tendered an assistant professorship in the department of education in Stanford University. He has accepted and will report for duty at Stanford August 1.

The Pacific Coast Railway has sent a gang of surveyors to Santa Maria to lay out the route for a branch line to the beet-sugar factory which is to be erected at once on the shores of Guadalupe Lake by the Union Beet Sugar Company.

Mackenzie & Mann, railroad contractors, have signed with the Canadian government to build a railroad 130 miles long from Telegraph Creek to Teslin Lake, to give entrance to

Dawson City, work to be commenced before next winter.

William J. Martin, whose retirement from the management of the San Francisco office of the Western Union Telegraph Company was recently published will on February 1 become the business manager of the Morning Call, to assist W. S. Leake.

Despite statements that there is no starvation at Klondike the government's preparations for "relief" go on. Gen. Merriam at Portland chartering a steamer to convey supplies. The Canadian government has withdrawn all tariffs from United States goods.

Wells, Fargo & Co. are erecting an immense office building at a cost of \$350,000 in San Francisco. It will be absolutely fireproof. The floors are to be constructed on what is known as the "concrete and twisted iron" method. The contract was awarded to R. Keatinge for the sum of \$37,755.

Rev. Edward Davis, the poet preacher, has filed his unconditional resignation with the trustees of the Central Christian Church. This action is said to have resulted from the trouble that arose at San Quentin when Durrant was hanged. It is authoritatively stated that Rev. Mr. Davis will leave the ministry at once, taking either to the legitimate state or the lecture platform.

The steamer Queen will hereafter run from San Francisco to Victoria, Puget Sound and Alaska, being replaced on the southern run by the steamer Corona. Capt. Debney will retain command of her until he reaches the Corona, which will then be turned over to him, to be brought south. While the Queen and Corona are exchanging places the steamer Puebla, Capt. Jepson, will make the trip between San Francisco and San Diego.

MINES AND MINING.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MINE ARE COMING TO THE FRONT.

The mining districts of Southern California will probably show an increase of gold production of not far from \$1,000,000, as compared with 1896. During the year a great amount of development has gone on, and many new mines will be producing this year. There is now more prospecting going on all over the deserts and in San Diego county than has ever been known. More capital is seeking investment than ever before. Sales of developed mines and promising claims are reported almost daily. Many of the investors are eastern men, but there, as elsewhere throughout the State, Californians are eagerly looking about them for gold properties. A number of mills and cyanide plants have been erected, or arranged for, during the past few months.

It is estimated that there is \$14,000,000 invested in gold mines south of Tehachapi, with about fifteen hundred stamps dropping and about six thousand men employed. The number of mines located is about 3800, and perhaps 2500 are being actively worked or developed. Yet as truly as of any other part of the State can it be said that the development of the gold resources has hardly begun. During the year hundreds of valuable finds have been made, and in scores of claims on which development has proceeded "strikes" have been made. The greatest activity has been seen in the Randsburg district, which will now enjoy a second growth with the completion of its railroad; out the Virginia Dale, Ferris, Panamint and other districts scattered over the great arid gold-producing territory are likewise seeing the beginnings of greatness.

A KERN COUNTY BONANZA.
The new Keysville district, in Kern county, eight miles west of Kernville, is at present attracting a considerable amount of attention among miners and prospectors. Last summer George W. Cline located a large porphyry dyke which had been run over by prospectors for many years. He located three claims, and later Nat Wilshire of this city located three more claims. The greatest depth yet attained is eighty feet, through a tunnel on the Welsh Gillan mine, from which a number of tons of free-milling ore have been taken which assay over \$20, the ledge being about six feet wide. Mr. Wilshire is sinking on the Margaret mine. This dyke has proved to be an extension of the famous Big Blue vein, which was operated about ten years ago. The vein at a depth of 100 feet changed from porphyry to quartz, and it is expected that the same change will occur in these mines. Ore from these mines is milled at the low rate of \$3.50 to \$4 per ton, the cost of hauling to the mill being only 70 cents. About forty claims have been located in all, and the camp promises to become a lively one.

The average amount of ore crushed per stamp for each twenty-four hours in California is about two tons. Should the average stamps in operation reach 7500 per day and night crushing, the result would be 15,000 tons a day, or 5,657,500 tons per year.

WASHINGTON NOTES.

Mr. McComas was elected Senator from Maryland.

The Treasury Department holds orange boxes free from import duty.

The House has passed the Pension Appropriation bill, the amount of which is \$141,000,000.

Sharp and acrimonious debate marks the progress of the Teller silver resolution in the Senate.

President McKinley is understood to be contemplating a trip to the Pacific coast next summer.

R. E. Preston, Director of the Mint, has resigned, and will be succeeded by George F. Roberts of Iowa.

Plans are being made for a complete system of coast defense and appropriations will be asked for fortifications and big guns.

Copies of Barlow's and White's fruit quarantine bill are exhausted. There is great interest in it, and a hundred more will be printed.

Mr. Lacey has introduced a bill limiting the amount of mineral land to be granted on one application to one lode claim or 160 acres of placer.

John W. Griggs of New Jersey has been nominated by the President for the office of Attorney-General. Mr. Griggs is at present Governor of New Jersey.

Representative Barlow has procured for Mrs. Edwards of Pasadena a pension of \$8 and back pension money amounting to \$320. It had been pending four years.

A bill has been presented by Mr. Butler of North Carolina to extend postoffice rural free delivery to every State and Territory. The Postmaster-General is said to indorse it.

Secretary of the Treasury Gage delivered a speech before the Trade League of Philadelphia in which he said the national administration was seeking to establish bimetalism.

The Navy Department has prepared plans and specifications for the proposed government armor plate factory, and bids will be opened January 29. The cost is expected to be between \$3,500,000 and \$4,500,000.

A favorable report on the bill for the appointment of a commission to segregate the mineral from the agricultural lands in the railroad grants in Oregon and California, was made by the House Committee on Public Lands.

Among the fourth-class postmasters appointed last week for California were: Glendora, Los Angeles county, James H. Wansley, vice George Graham, removed; Sespe, Ventura county, Caroline E. Smith, vice Angie Allen, resigned; Kern, John Lemasters.

Senator Frye was authorized by the Senate Committee on Commerce to report the bill recently introduced by himself providing for the construction of eight new internal revenue cutters to take the places of old vessels, which have grown to be unseaworthy.

The United States Land Department is preparing to survey to ascertain if any changes shall be made in the Presidential proclamations setting aside 17,000,000 acres of lands as forest reserves. Of these lands 555,520 acres are in San Gabriel, and 737,289 in San Bernardino county, Cal.

Senator Bacon in the executive session of the Senate offered an amendment to the Hawaiian annexation treaty providing for the submission of the treaty to a popular vote of the citizens of Hawaii, and making its acceptance by this government depend upon its acceptance by the Hawaiian people.

EASTERN NEWS ITEMS.

Helena, Ark., was visited by an earthquake.

Many Ohio River towns are in danger of flood.

Charles T. Parsloe, the actor, died in New York, recently.

The National Fishery Congress met at Tampa, Fla., last week.

The Tennessee Legislature is deallocated on the Senatorial election.

E. J. Ratcliffe, the actor, was indicted by the grand jury for perjury.

The frame spinners at the Fall River Works' mills have returned to work.

Rev. Michael J. Cramer, brother-in-law of Gen. U. S. Grant, died at Carlisle, Pa.

The national conference of prohibitionists met in Cincinnati with 200 delegates.

Grover Cleveland has purchased a tract of land near Princeton, N. J., to be used as a game preserve.

Ex-Gov. George W. Peck of Wisconsin, announces himself as a candidate for Mayor of Milwaukee.

Dr. John Hall has withdrawn his resignation as pastor of the Fifth-avenue Presbyterian Church of New York.

In an interview, ex-President Cleveland declared that he had always been opposed to Hawaiian annexation.

Daniel R. Hanna, son of Marcus A.,

is sued in Ohio courts for divorce, his wife alleging gross neglect and cruelty.

A Hungarian banker's son, heir to half a million, died in a Chicago lunatic asylum, and was buried in a pauper's grave.

Henry Loomis Nelson, editor of Harper's Weekly, was injured by being thrown from a carriage at New Rochelle, N. Y.

A blinding snowstorm and blizzard prevailed most of last week, in the Middle Western States. All traffic was delayed.

The Populists of Georgia will hold a State convention March 6, and Thomas E. Watson will be a candidate for Governor.

The Northern Colorado coal operators have decided not to accede to the demand of the striking miners for an advance in wages.

John M. Scott, ex-Justice of the Supreme Court of Illinois, aged 75, is dead. He was an intimate friend of Lincoln and David Davis.

Miss Bessie Field, daughter of ex-Justice Field, at Waterbury, Ct., bravely extinguished a fire which threatened the destruction of a home.

C. P. Huntington contemplates the construction at Newport News of the largest dry dock in the country, one capable of docking the largest vessel afloat.

Yale students have decided to employ no colored labor at the junior promenade, and have rejected the bids of caterers who proposed to employ colored waiters.

Two hundred fishermen and their families, living on the ice at Put-in-Bay, O., had narrow escapes from drowning during a gale, but were rescued by boats from shore.

The Indianapolis Monetary Convention has adjourned, subject to the call of Senator Hanna. The convention indorsed the report of the monetary commission now before Congress.

The Chicago Inter Ocean has applied to the Illinois court for an injunction restraining the Associated Press from discontinuing its news service to that paper or expelling the paper from its membership.

The big grain steamer City of Duluth struck the bar off St. Joseph, Mich., and broke in two. The passengers and crew were taken off by life savers, but the vessel and cargo are a total loss.

Hereafter the American Volunteers and the Salvation Army will pursue their work in their respective fields like churches of different denominations, in perfect harmony, and possibly with cooperation.

Testimony before the Ohio Senatorial bribery investigation continues replete with details of overheard telephone talks. Chairman H. A. Dougherty of the Republican Executive Committee and others refuse to testify, and efforts will be made to make them.

The fight between the Denver newspapers and the fourteen department stores of the city regarding advertising rates, ended with the unconditional surrender of the Merchants' Association and the acceptance of a scale of rates somewhat higher than the previous one.

Mary Exley, 8, the daughter of a farmer of Junction City, has been weighed and measured, and is probably the largest child of her age in the world. She weighs 269 pounds, she is 5 feet 9 inches tall and 5 feet 2 inches around the waist. Her mother weighs 168 pounds, and her father is a medium-sized man.

FROM FOREIGN LANDS.

Italy has made a reduction of the tariff on cereals.

Two persons were killed in a bread riot at Genoa, Italy.

Many fishermen on the Nova Scotia Coast are reported to be in a starving condition.

Northwesterly gales have driven the Arctic ice floe in upon the northern coast of Newfoundland.

Vice-President Pereira of Brazil, who is accused of complicity in the latest revolutionary plot, will be exiled.

The eclipse of the sun was successfully observed at Bombay. It was accompanied by a rapid fall of temperature.

Feeling in Japan against Europeans has reached such a limit that imperial edicts are necessary to preserve the peace.

It is reported that Lord Salisbury informed the Cabinet that China had practically accepted the British offer of a loan.

Bishop, the assassin of Gen. Betancourt, the Brazilian Minister of war, last November, has committed suicide in prison.

Kurds are devastating Armenian villages in the neighborhood of Russian villayets and the Armenians are retaliating.

Spain will return the compliment of the Maine's visit to Havana by send-

ing her biggest cruiser to make a call on New York.

Details of an attack by Chinese pirates on the European settlement of Haiphong have arrived. French troops charged the rioters, capturing ten.

The British fleet at Esquimaux is ordered to prepare for a trip to China on forty-eight hours' notice. Japanese vessels are also headed Chinward.

In West Africa British troops have occupied Okute, in Borgu territory. The possession of the Borgu is disputed between France and Great Britain.

On account of the excitement over the Dreyfus affair there were riots in the Chamber of Deputies and more or less rioting in Paris. The city is guarded by 4000 police officers.

England has explained that instead of saying her policy would be to throw the Chinese ports open to the commerce of the world, she meant that England would never allow herself to be shut out.

Russia is about to make a new demand upon Turkey for £28,000,000 indemnity, due from the Russia-Turkish war. It is thought this demand will make Turkey more docile on the Cretan question.

Advices from Honolulu state that American planters on the island are prepared to abolish contract labor in order to remove a stumbling block to annexation. The move is fought by foreign planters and interests.

The battleship Maine has dropped anchor off Havana, and was received with the usual salute. Much surprise was manifested at her arrival. The Maine's crew will be kept closely aboard ship to prevent trouble.

The Mexican government has leased the Tehantepec Railroad for a period of fifty years to Sir Westman Pearson & Son, to take effect about April 1. The contractors will build harbors at both the Atlantic and Pacific ends.

Spanish warships have been ordered to concentrate at Cadiz, to be headed for Havana if events shall demand such a course. Insurgent Gen. Arangueron was killed, and the body was reported dressed in the clothes of the executed Ruiz.

WANTED, SOME BURGLARS.

They Were Requested to Call and Steal Valuable Heirlooms.

A man rushed into the business office of one of the daily papers and stopped at the advertising window. There he secured a pad of paper and a pencil with a string to it. He wrote and erased, and then tore up what he had written, chewing the fragments savagely while he made another copy.

"There," he said at last, as he thrust the paper into the hand of the advertising clerk, "count the words and tell me what they will cost for one insertion. I reckon that will fetch them."

This was the advertisement:

"Burglars are requested to call some night this week on Mr. and Mrs. Erasmus Brown, Ash court. A door and window will be left open and every facility offered for removing the spoils."

"But this is a very unusual form of advertisement," said the clerk, with a troubled look. "I don't know whether to put it under the head of personal or educational. What is your motive, may I ask?"

"My motive?" said the advertiser, "is to get rid of an awful incubus of inherited truck without any responsibility fastened upon me. I might burn the house down, but in that case I would be expected to save the heirlooms or perish with them. Say, young man, were you ever the victim of a legacy?"

"No," said the clerk, with a friendly grin. "What a funny question."

"No old maid aunt ever died and left you a dozen battered silver teaspoons that had come down from Oliver Cromwell?"

"Never!"

"Lucky chap! Never had a solid silver punch bowl bequeathed to you by a bibulous old uncle who was a disgrace to the family while he lived, but promised to return and haunt you if you didn't entertain his comrades once a year out of that bowl?"

"I should say not."

"Nor a great-grandmother who left you a silver soup ladle with a coat of arms of some unknown dead and gone ancestor which must be placed under your pillow every night for safe keeping?"

"No," said the clerk. "I belong to plain, everyday people, and we haven't a coat of arms to our backs."

"Be thankful, young man. You little realize what a blessed lot is yours. To crown our misfortunes, another relative died in Paris last week and left us her diamonds, and so does my wife. We take turns now sitting up with the silver. After the burglars come and clean us out we shall begin to live. Put that advertisement in a good place, and I'll let you know if we hear from it. S'long."

—Chicago Times-Herald